APPENDIX B

Environmental Field Trip Report

Hungry Hollow Dam

ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD TRIP REPORT. HUNGRY HOLLOW RESERVOIR

INTRODUCTION

A team of environmental specialists completed an initial field trip to the potential Hungry Hollow Reservoir site on May 31, 2002. The field trip was the first task in the environmental study of several potential surface storage options identified for initial review during the Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation. For initial consideration, the environmental review focused mainly on construction and potential upstream impacts associated with surface storage sites. The site visit provided an opportunity to conduct preliminary reconnaissance of existing resources at the various locations for the following resource areas: terrestrial biology; aquatic biology and water quality; recreation; cultural resources; and land use.

This appendix includes a brief overview of the resource specialists' observations, trip logs prepared by team members, photographs taken during the field trip, and maps used to identify and review existing resources.

SUMMARY OF FIELD OBSERVATIONS

This measure would involve constructing a new dam on Deer Creek. The new dam site and reservoir would be situated on private property. Existing facilities include paved county roads, paved and unpaved private roads, private residences, ranch and farm buildings, and transmission towers and lines.

Botany

- This is a wide braded creek channel that is ephemeral but flows ½ cfs in late May.
- There is a well-developed riparian belt and woodlands with species including alder, willow, sycamore and mule fat.
- This measure could result in substantial impacts to riparian and wetland habitats.
- Possibility of special status plants is unknown, but probably low.

Wildlife

- The stream may support western pond turtle, willow flycatcher, VELB and San Joaquin kit fox.
- Possible effects include loss of significant riparian stands and conversion of the area from a stream and riparian-based ecosystem to a lake type ecosystem.

Aquatic Biology/Water Quality

- Deer Creek is an intermittent stream with well-developed riparian vegetation.
- Numerous small fish were observed in the stream, so pool habitat likely persists through the dry season.
- The creek likely contains no significant aquatic biological resources, but database and literature searches should be conducted to confirm.
- Construction of a reservoir would create new aquatic habitat and fisheries opportunities, primarily for exotic fish species.
- Inundation of abandoned mines, if any are present, could result in water quality degradation.
- Diversions from Lake Success would potentially affect fisheries and water quality of that reservoir.

Recreation

- There are no developed recreation facilities located in the immediate project area.
- This project would involve diverting water from Lake Success to the new Hungry Hollow Dam Reservoir.
- Lower water levels at Lake Success could affect recreation facilities such as boat ramps and recreation opportunities such as fishing and boating.

Cultural Resources

- The riparian zone along Deer Creek and adjacent Blue Oak woodland would have provided an attractive natural resource area.
- Grassland in the lower part of the potential reservoir area may be recent, the result of removing Blue Oak to facilitate grazing.
- There is a high probability of prehistoric archaeological sites including BRM stations, hunting and fishing camps, and seasonal village sites.
- Historic sites are likely, associated with mining, agriculture and other activities.

Land Use

- There are scattered farm houses in the area surrounding the Creek. Depending on the inundation area some of them may be affected. Prime agricultural land or Williamson Act lands may also be affected.

Field Trip Log – Botany		
Trip Log Number:	S14	**Project No.:** 8004094
Dates:	May 31, 2002	
Site Name:	New Hungry Hollow Dam	
Location:	Deer Creek southeast of Porterville	
Prepared By:	Jeff Glazner/Barry Anderson/David Stevens	
Date:	June 5, 2002	

Weather Conditions:	Hot and Dry
Areas Covered (attach map with notations	
Attachments	
Photo Log	Yes
Photos	Yes
Topographic Map(s)	No

Field Observations:

Existing Facilities:

None

Existing Environmental Features as Appropriate to Discipline (hydrology; aquatic-water quality; terrestrial—plants; wildlife; recreation; cultural resources; land use; aesthetic)

Deer Creek is an intermittent, braided stream (ephemeral but flowing ½ cfs in late May). that supports a substantial riparian zone. The surrounding area has grassland and oak woodland. Well developed riparian belt and woodlands with species including alder, willow, sycamore and mule fat.

Need for additional (engineering/hydrological, or other) information on measures

- Geology or soils information
- Spillway elevation and limits of inundation
- Location of diversion structures and new tunnel
- Location of new pump stations
- Location of realigned existing roads
- Location of transmission line towers and work areas
- Location of work pads, access roads, and other construction areas

Additional data needs (within each specific discipline)

- CNDDB report
- CNPS report
- Ceres report
- Field surveys for wetlands and special status species and habitats

Field Trip Log - Wildlife		
Trip Log Number:	S14	**Project No.:** 8004094
Dates:	May 31, 2002	
Site Name:	New Hungry Hollow Dam	
Location:	Deer Creek southeast of Porterville	
Prepared By:	Dave Stevens, Stephanie Murphy	
Date:	June 5, 2002	

Weather Conditions:	Hot and dry
Areas Covered (attach map with notations	
Attachments	
Photo Log	
Photos	
Topographic Map(s)	

Field Observations:

Existing Facilities:

None

Existing Environmental Features as Appropriate to Discipline (hydrology; aquatic-water quality; terrestrial—plants; wildlife; recreation; cultural resources; land use; aesthetic)

Wide braded creek channel, ephemeral but flowing ½ cfs in late May. Well developed riparian belt and woodlands with species including alder, willow, sycamore and mule fat. Stream may support western pond turtle, willow flycatcher, VELB and San Joaquin kit fox Constraints include loss of significant riparian stands, conversion of the area from a stream and riparian based ecosystem to a lake type ecosystem.

Need for additional (engineering/hydrological, or other) information on measures

- Hydrologic models, dam, inundation zones
- Potential project features in addition to dam, size and location, etc.

Additional data needs (within each specific discipline)

a. Need to coordinate with resource agency biologists and agency files on known distribution of sensitive species for this area.

Field Trip Log – Fish and Water Quality		
Trip Log Number:	S14	**Project No.:** 8004094
Dates:	May 31, 2002	
Site Name:	New Hungry Hollow Dam	
Location:	Deer Creek southeast of Porterville	
Prepared By:	Philip Unger	
Date:	June 10, 2002	

Weather Conditions:	Hot and dry
Areas Covered (attach map with notations	Hungry Hollow valley, Deer Creek
Attachments	
Photo Log	No
Photos	No
Topographic Map(s)	Yes

Field Observations:

Existing Facilities:

The new dam site and reservoir would be situated on private property. Existing facilities include paved and unpaved roads, private residences, ranch and farm buildings, and transmission towers and lines.

Existing Environmental Features as Appropriate to Discipline (hydrology; aquatic-water quality; terrestrial—plants; wildlife; recreation; cultural resources; land use; aesthetic)

Deer Creek is an intermittent, braided stream with well-developed riparian vegetation. The surrounding area has grassland and oak woodland. Flow was very low at the time of the field visit and surface flow likely ceases by mid summer. Numerous small fish (about 1 to 3 inches long) were seen in the stream, so pools are likely present through the dry season.

Need for additional (engineering/hydrological, or other) information on measures

Need information on exact area that would be submerged by Hungry Hollow Dam Reservoir.
Need information on range of seasonal flow conditions in Deer Creek.
Need the following estimates for proposed reservoir:

- Mean depth for each month, April – October.
- Mean surface area of shallow water habitat (less than 15 feet deep) in each month, April – October.
- Mean rate of water level fluctuation for each month, April – October.

Need information on how Lake Success and Tule River would be affected by diversions to Hungry Hollow Dam Reservoir, including changes in water level, timing and duration, and flows.

Additional data needs (within each specific discipline)

Need information on summer water temperatures and dissolved oxygen levels in Deer Creek and list of fish species likely present in the creek. Also, any existing water quality information and information on the location and types of active and abandoned mines in the inundation zone of the proposed reservoir.
Need information on fish species residing in Lake Success.

Field Trip Log - Recreation		
Trip Log Number:	S14	**Project No.:** 8004094
Dates:	May 31, 2002	
Site Name:	New Hungry Hollow Dam	
Location:	Deer Creek southeast of Porterville	
Prepared By:	Sandra Perry	
Date:	June 4, 2002	

Weather Conditions:	Hot and dry
Areas Covered (attach map with notations	Hungry Hollow valley, Deer Creek
Attachments	
Photo Log	No
Photos	No
Topographic Map(s)	Yes

Field Observations:

Existing Facilities:

This project would involve constructing a new dam on Deer Creek. The new dam site and reservoir would be situated on private property. Existing facilities include paved county roads, paved and unpaved private roads, private residences, ranch and farm buildings, and transmission towers and lines.

Existing Environmental Features as Appropriate to Discipline (hydrology; aquatic-water quality; terrestrial—plants; wildlife; recreation; cultural resources; land use; aesthetic)

There are no developed recreation facilities located in the immediate project area. However, this project would involve diverting water from Lake Success to the new Hungry Hollow Dam Reservoir. Lower water levels at Lake Success could affect recreation facilities such as boat ramps and recreation opportunities such as fishing and boating.

Need for additional (engineering/hydrological, or other) information on measures

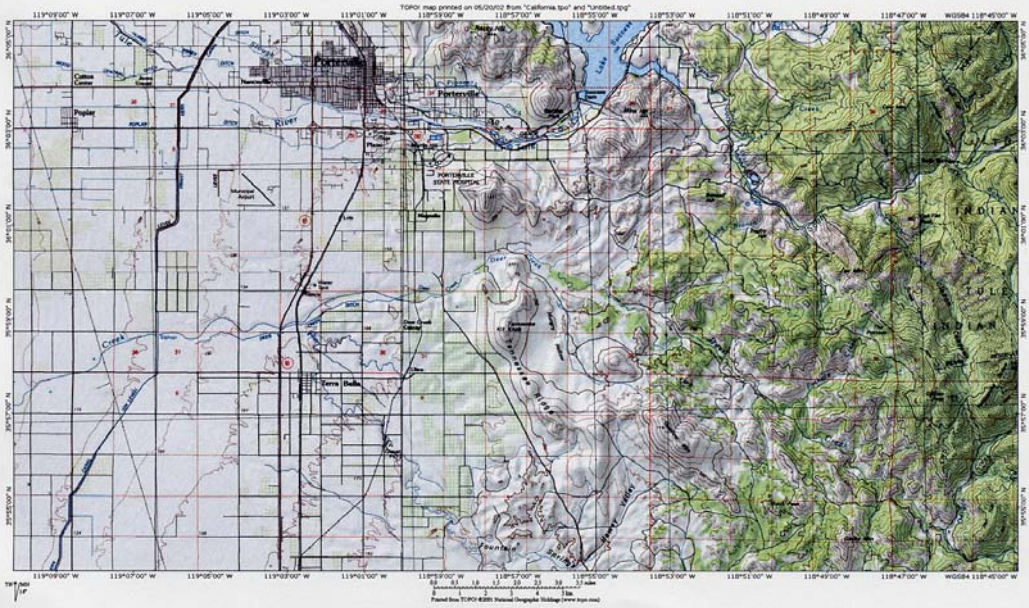
Need information on exact area that would be submerged by Hungry Hollow Dam Reservoir.
Need information on how Lake Success would be affected by diversions to Hungry Hollow Dam Reservoir, including changes in water level, timing and duration.

Additional data needs (within each specific discipline)

Need the following recreation-related information for Lake Success:

- Exact location of existing recreation facilities along the margins of Lake Success
- General information about recreation activities and use levels.

Hungry Hollow



No Recreation facilities but diversions from Lake Success could affect recreation at Lake Success

Field Trip Log – Land Use		
Trip Log Number:	S14	**Project No.:** 8004094
Dates:	May 31, 2002	
Site Name:	New Hungry Hollow Dam	
Location:	Deer Creek southeast of Porterville	
Prepared By:	Irina Torrey	
Date:	June 12, 2002	

Weather Conditions:	Hot and dry
Areas Covered (attach map with notations	Hungry Hollow valley, Deer Creek
Attachments	
Photo Log	Yes
Photos	Yes
Topographic Map(s)	No

Field Observations:

Existing Facilities:

This project would involve constructing a new dam on Deer Creek. The new dam site and reservoir would be situated on private property. Existing facilities include paved county roads, paved and unpaved private roads, private residences, ranch and farm buildings, and transmission towers and lines.

Existing Environmental Features as Appropriate to Discipline (hydrology; aquatic-water quality; terrestrial—plants; wildlife; recreation; cultural resources; land use; aesthetic)

There are a few scattered private residences and cattle farms in the area that may be within the area of inundation. There is an abandoned farm closest to the Creek.

Need for additional (engineering/hydrological, or other) information on measures

Need information on exact area that would be submerged by Hungry Hollow Dam Reservoir.

Additional data needs (within each specific discipline)

No additional information is needed.

Field Trip Log – Cultural Resources		
Trip Log Number:	S14	**Project No.:** 8004094
Dates:	May 31, 2002	
Site Name:	New Hungry Hollow Dam	
Location:	Deer Creek southeast of Porterville	
Prepared By:	David White	
Date:	May 31 2002	

Weather Conditions:	Hot & dry
Areas Covered (attach map with notations)	Vehicular reconnaissance May 31, along Ave. 120 off Road 264
Attachments	
Photo Log	No
Photos	No
Topographic Map(s)	Success Dam, Fountain Springs quads

Field Observations:

Existing Facilities:

No existing dam. Residences, ranching, gravel pits.

Existing Environmental Features as Appropriate to Discipline (hydrology; aquatic-water quality; terrestrial—plants; wildlife; recreation; cultural resources; land use; aesthetic)

Cultural resources:
Prehistoric: Riparian zone along Deer Creek and adjacent Blue Oak woodland would have provided an attractive natural resource area. Grassland in lower part of potential reservoir area may be recent, the result of removing Blue Oak to facilitate grazing. High probability of prehistoric archaeological sites including BRM stations, hunting & fishing camps, seasonal village sites.
Historic: Various sites likely, associated with mining, agriculture and other activities.

Need for additional (engineering/hydrological, or other) information on measures

Need precisely mapped footprint of reservoir, with various potential dam levels; also need footprint of all associated project-related ground disturbance areas, to include but not be limited to project offices and maintenance buildings, construction set-up and lay-down areas, access roads, electric transmission lines, water conveyance structures, and all other project facilities.

Additional data needs (within each specific discipline)

Need archaeological records search with California Historic Resources Inventory System (CHRIS) information center. Clearinghouse: Southern San Joaquin Valley Info Center, CSU-Bakersfield. Also need brief review of archaeological and ethnographic literature pertaining to the area. Minimal level of effort: (1) to identify types of archaeological remains expected, time periods represented; and (2) to identify Native American tribes historically occupying the area, along with published information on major named villages or other ethnographic sites.

Picture: P52900142 New Hungry Hollow Dam Site looking north.

Picture: P52900143 New Hungry Hollow Dam Site looking north-east.

Hungry Hollow 5/31/02

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